



Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 27

MARCH 1977

NUMBER 2

LENT - - Grow Toward God and Others

It is not easy to believe, as I look out my study window this morning and see the ground covered again with snow and more falling, that spring is only a few short weeks away. Lent — from the Latin word “lencthus”, meaning spring — begins with Ash Wednesday on February 23.

Lent, traditionally, is a time for searching the mind and heart, and for nurturing the human spirit that the Christian may grow in the knowledge and love of God. It is also a time for self-denial — not that of the ascetic, but the grateful acceptance of the privilege of sharing with “the least of these.”

Lent is a period when we can add to our awareness of God by giving renewed attention to prayer, when we can add to our knowledge of the Gospels by daily Bible reading, when we can renew our loyalty to the church by more faithful participation in worship, and when we can add to our Christian influence by being more helpful to people around us. Thus, Lent can be not just some dates on the church calendar, but a milestone in our growth toward God.

—Richard L. Jackson,
Pastor, Congregational Church of Christ,
Tryon, N.C.

GUEST LEADERS AT MINISTERS' CONVOCAATION MAY 2-4



REV. MS. ANN CALVIN ROGERS,
Associate staff leader in the Office for
Church Life and Leadership, lives in
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Cally grew up in Florida, was educated at Mary Baldwin College, Yale Divinity School and Pacific School of Religion. While at Yale, she served as Director of Christian Education at the American Church in Paris, France, for two years, and as Minister of Education at Yale's Battell Chapel. She was ordained in the Bay Association, Northern California Conference in 1973.

She has been vitally interested in family education and is a certified instructor in Parent Effectiveness Training.



DR. REUBEN A. SHEARES, II is a native of Charleston, S.C. He is a graduate of Talladega College, Talladega, Al. (A.B.); Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, N.Y. (B.D.); Roosevelt University, Chicago, Ill. (M.P.A.); and Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. (D. Min.)

Dr. Sheares served churches in Leroy and Jamestown, N.Y. and in Nashville, TN. From 1963-65, he was Minister of Metropolitan Mission on the staffs of the Southern California and Southwest Conference of the United Church of Christ. He served as Secretary of the Urban Church Dept., Div. of Church Extension, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, N.Y. 1965-67. From 1967-73 he was Associate Executive Director for Community Development, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, Ill.

He served on the Board of Directors, Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., is a member of the Board of Trustees, Tougaloo College, and was Chaplain for the Eight General Synod. He is the Executive Director of the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering supports a wide variety of service and development projects undertaken all around the world. OGHS funds are used for disaster relief, refugee (or displaced persons) service, and programs of social service and development. Last year, more than \$1.5 million was contributed to OGHS over-and-beyond the amount given to Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission.

While the OGHS offering may be taken at any time of the year as determined by

the congregation, the suggested time is the fourth Sunday in Lent, which in 1977 falls on March 20. The OGHS theme this year is “More than Bread.”

Millions are in need of bread for their daily sustenance. They also need more than bread: medicines, vitamins, clothing, bedding, sewing machines, seeds, fertilizers, tools, loan funds, training, education — all brought with hope and dignity and in a witness to the love of God for all humanity.

News and Views

SENIOR UNITED CHURCH YOUTH of East Alabama Association held a one-day rally Feb. 19, at First Church, Phenix, City, Ala.

REV. ARNOLD SLATER, Pastor Emeritus of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, TN, conducted funeral service for Fred Muhleman, former member of the church, Feb. 16, at Lake Park United Church of Christ, Lake Park, Fla. Mrs. Muhleman (Polly) still lives at 642 Pilot Rd., North Palm Beach, Fla. 33408.

DR. DAVID BEEBE, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, Chattanooga, lectured Feb. 16, on the history of the covenant idea at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and at Central Congregational Church, Atlanta. Twelve students from Emory and twelve members of Central Church under leadership of an Emory Prof. and Rev. W.T. Scott, Jr., are exploring "Covenant" as it appears in the Bible and as Congregationalists, now United Church of Christ, use the term in church constitutions and general practice. Dr. Beebe dealt with early covenants of the Congregational Church.

E.J. MARBURY, JR., long-time member of Talladega United Church of Christ, died Jan. 24, in Connecticut and was buried there. He served as lay leader in the Talladega Church for many years. Other deaths in the Talladega Church were: (1976) Dennis Frazier in February; Mrs. Eunice Meadows in April, Mrs. Effie Jones in November.

PASTORS ASKED TO MAKE NEW PROFILES

A new system is being developed to establish a national record of professionals in the United Church of Christ which will aid congregations seeking pastors, church educators and other professionals. This system will help other agencies of the United Church of Christ which are seeking personnel.

All ministers in Southeast Conference are urged to write for the new profile forms by writing: Professional Profiles Office, Office for Church Life and Leadership, 289 Park Ave., S., New York, NY 10010.

New profile forms will be discussed at Ministers' Convocation, May 2-4. Camp Sumatanga, Gallant, AL. Reuben Sheares and Cally Rogers of OCLL will make the presentation.

NEW MINISTER INSTALLED



Rev. Randall Gehres, a United Church of Christ minister, was installed as pastor of the Morgan County Parish in a service at Lancing Presbyterian Church January 30. Helping in the installation ceremony were L-R: Rev. Robert Butziger, Director of Morgan-Scott Project; William Harper, Elder, Wartburg Presbyterian Church; Dr. David Beebe, Pastor, Pilgrim U.C.C., Chattanooga; Farrell Kennedy, Trustee, Deer Lodge Congregational Church; Rev. Donald Padgett, Pastor, Allardt Presbyterian Church; Rev. Randall Gehres; Rev. Marion Mamsell, Mission Counselor, St. Andrew's Presbytery; Yubenia Prigmore, Moderator, Ala.-Tenn. Assoc. of S.E. Conference, UCC; Rev. Walter Hall, pastor, Pleasant Hill UCC; Rev. Clinton Marsh, Associate Executive, Synod of the South, U.P.Ch.; Mark Frey, Pastor, Robbins Parish; and Charles Kreis, Elder, Lancing Presbyterian Church.

SWEETHEART BANQUET

Andalusia First Church was the scene of the 1977 Sweetheart Banquet. The fellowship hall was decorated in the valentine motif, including a floor to ceiling heart-shaped frame through which everyone stepped to enter. The dinner was co-hosted by the Antioch Church. The program was a barber shop quartet. Also, the Pastor and wife, Woody and Angie Clark, celebrating their first anniversary of marriage bliss, were re-married in mock ceremony by Alfred Adams. Present at the event were: Florida churches: Baker, Pyron's Chapel and Good Hope; Bonifay, New Effort; and the host church, Andalusia, Antioch.

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E. Alabama Laymen Have Ladies' Night

The Annual Ladies' Night of East Alabama Men's Fellowship held at Southern Union College, Wadley, AL., Feb. 19, was a great event, with 235 present. Master of Ceremonies, Larry Thompson, gave welcome and introduced guests. Newly-elected officers, installed by A.R. Van Cleave, are: Pres., Larry Thompson; Vice Pres., Jimmy Elder; Sec.-Treas., Leon Lee.

Program for the evening was a talent contest, with five church groups participating. The winning group was Oak Grove Church, with a chain gang selection of songs, accompanied by piano and guitar, performed by 10 men and one woman. Running a close second was LaGrange United Church, with a song presentation by three ladies.

Attendance trophies were won by: Alex. City, Roanoke Lowell, and LaGrange, Hillside.

The coveted annual "Man of the Year" and "Minister of the Year" awards were presented by Jimmy Elder and won by Gordon Bradshaw and Joe French, respectively. The door prize was a week's supply of groceries for a family of 4.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to: Bentley Thompson, Bob Bringle, and Horace Welch.

New ministers and wives present were: the Roger Loosiers and the Nelson Kittles. Guests included Dr. and Mrs. W.J. Andes.

News and Views

SCOUTING AT LANETT CHURCH — 20 Boy Scouts are registered in Troop I, and 25 Cub Scouts are registered in Pack I. Lanett Church is sponsoring organization and the following serve on the Scout Committee: John Mack Sorrell, Calvin Dollar, Don Harmon, Charlie Miller and Mrs. E.G. Shaddix. The Scouts attended worship Feb. 13.

WORTH QUOTING: The Lord's Prayer has 56 words. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address has 226 words. The Ten Commandments have 297 words. The Declaration of Independence has 300 words. A recent government order setting the price of cabbage has 26,911 words!

—Belinda Jelliffe

17/76 ACHIEVEMENT 2/3 OF THE WAY!

Stephen C. Gray, Chairman of 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign in Southeast Conference, reminds us that by April, 1977, we will have reached the 2/3 mark of the campaign. At that time, we will have one final year to surpass our Conference's Primary Goal of \$70,000, with the hope of achieving our Challenge Goal of \$89,455.

The sad thing is that only about 1/4 of the active UCC churches in the Conference have participated. These are carrying the burden for the whole conference. The six AMA Colleges, in our midst, the southern region, and the educational institutions overseas are desperately in need of the churches' support.

YOU CAN HELP

BROOKLAWN CHILDREN'S HOME

The Brooklawn Children's Home, P.O. Box 18241, Louisville, Ky. 40218, needs: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please contact the Development Office at above address if your church can help.

CONFIRMATION CALLS FOR RETREATS

Confirmation classes (young people preparing for church membership) are finding opportunities to go on retreat for study, fellowship and meditation. The Confirmation Class at St. John's Church, Cullman, AL, spent the night at church Jan. 14 and worshipped with the Nuns at Sacred Heart Convent Jan. 15. The Confirmation Class at Atlanta, Central Church, recently spent a weekend at the Church and other times, have been in mountain retreat centers. Youth at Brookmeade Church, Nashville, had planned a retreat at the new home of their pastor and wife, but were delayed on account of bad weather.

Lent and Easter find many confirmation classes coming into membership of churches. Adequate preparation is helpful.

ALEXANDER CITY FIRST REVIVES

Sunday, February 2, 1975! Twenty people plus pastor and wife met around a heater in a very leaky-roof church building and tried to envision if there were even a slight possibility of a future for Hunt Memorial Congregational Christian Church (now First Congregational Christian Church, United Church of Christ) of Alexander City, Ala. They seemed interested, but not ecstatic.

Two years later, the vision of a strong church takes shape. The roof has been replaced on the church building. Paint and renovation of the outside made a change in the looks of the church. Inside, the block wall has been panelled and the worship center has been redesigned. The "new look" is amazing. There is more to be done, especially in the Christian Education unit of the building.

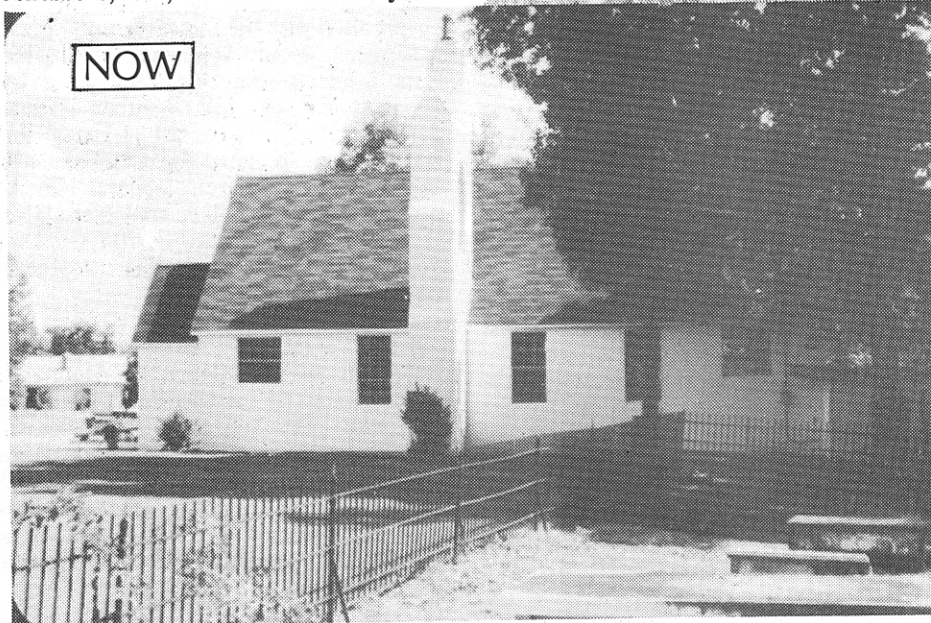
The parsonage next door was ready to be condemned by the city. Improvements costing \$9,000, plus the labor of friends near and far have produced a parsonage now valued at \$22,000.

The East Alabama Association and the Church Building Society of New York have made loans for the renovations, and many people have given time and money to make all of this possible.

Now the need is for "Leadership Aid" — that is, money to enable the church to have the full-time leadership of a resident pastor in a growing city. Floyd Carmack of Bonanza United Church of Christ, Jonesboro, Ga., has been asked by the

Outreach Commission to invite the churches of the Conference to give a "Love Offering" for Alexander City Church during Lent. The offering should be sent to the Southeast Conference Office.

The 40 members have a budget of \$14,000! They will give half of it if the rest of us can give the other half. Their goal is 150 members by 1980 — they're working at it!



Belvidere Church Has New Allen Organ

On Saturday, Jan. 29, 1977, Mr. Ray Luther held a workshop for organ pupils and church organists at Belvidere United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tenn. Mr. Luther has an extensive background in organ and church music. He was Choirmaster and Organist at Christ Episcopal Church, Raleigh, N.C. for 14 years and presently is Church Music

Consultant for the Claude P. Street Piano Co. and organist at Dalewood United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN.

The newly-installed Allen (Digital Computer) Organ was dedicated to the glory of God as a form of worship at Belvidere Church Sunday, January 30, with Mr. Luther as guest organist.

In the dedication service, the pastor, Collie Seymour, stated the objective and the people then made the dedication.

"ROOTS" AND 17/76

The 12-hour telecast of "Roots" has provoked much discussion. We will be probing its significance for a long, long time. The book is destined to be a classic.

Among other things, it has lifted into our consciousness many facts about our national heritage and little known conditions which prevailed.

For instance, in pre-Civil War days, many states forbade the teaching of reading and writing to black people. In "Roots" Kizzy is chastised for being able to read, a skill she acquired from the white daughter in the "big house."

But shortly after the war had ended, the American Missionary Association was able to establish some 500 schools for the newly-freed blacks. One of these schools, known as Dorchester Academy, was founded in Dorchester, Georgia, near an old church building that was a part of one of the predecessor denominations in the United Church of Christ. The Academy thrived for 75 years, serving blacks of the community. Then, in 1940, Liberty County, where Dorchester is located, built a consolidated public school for black youth, and so the Academy was closed as a school, but its buildings continue to be used today.

This is the same American Missionary Association which is now a part of the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries. Among the 500 schools it started in the South were the six colleges we have been supporting in our 17/76 Achievement Fund Campaign: Dillard University, New Orleans; Fisk University, Nashville; Huston-Tillotson, Austin, Texas; LeMoyné-Owen College, Memphis, Tenn.; Talladega College, Alabama; Tougaloo College, Tougaloo, Mississippi.

Churches in Southeast Conference pledged \$75,709 toward the national effort of our denomination. To date, we have turned in \$47,987 of that amount. Most pledges are being paid faithfully. We are confident of reaching our goal.

If there are those in our fellowship who wish to be part of this important effort, it is still possible to make a gift or a pledge. It is one way of trying to continue the work begun by the AMA in those difficult days of Reconstruction following the Civil War and to promote "equality through education."

We are grateful to Alex Haley and "Roots" for the timely and forceful reminder! (Adapted)

REV. W. WALTER HALL, pastor of the Community Church, Pleasant Hill, TN., was elected President of Cumberland County AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) January 12. Elected to the Board of Directors were Betty Anderson and Curt Schumacher of Pleasant Hill.

Growth in the Grace of Giving

Dr. Sheldon Mackey, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council in Philadelphia, wrote the Southeast Conference Churches: "I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and that of the whole of the United Church of Christ for the support which the churches of the Southeast Conference have given to Our Christian World Mission through Basic Support in 1976. I find the record for 1976 to be one in which all of us can rejoice. Most of our Conferences increased their giving both for work within the Conference and beyond. For this we can be truly grateful. 1976 was a year of growth in the grace of giving."

The churches in Southeast Conference gave to Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission (OCWM) in 1976 a total of \$75,967.10. The goal was \$76,000, and we were short by \$32.90. A few days after the books were closed the Conference Office received a check for OCWM from one church for 1976 for \$500! If only it had arrived a few days earlier!

The 1977 OCWM Goal is \$83,000. Can we make it? Henry W. Tuttle, Coordinator of our Outreach Commission, says we can. The Commission is preparing, in cooperation with the Stewardship Council, a filmstrip on the Southeast Conference. This filmstrip may be ready for the Associations next fall. Another Mission Seminar, similar to the one at Lanett last fall, is being planned for October 28-30, 1977. National church leaders will be present. The place will be announced later. If you do not know the OCWM Goal for your church, contact the Southeast Conference Office.

GROWTH IN THE GRACE OF LIVING

Growth in the Grace of Giving is accompanied by the Growth in the Grace of Living. Dr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Munson were appointed on behalf of the United Church of Christ as Volunteers with the UCBWM for a period of about three months, beginning March 8, 1977, while he serves as surgeon at Evangelical

SIX AMERICAN FAMILIES



Beginning April 4, television viewers all across the United States will have an opportunity to take a candid look into the real life experiences of six typical American families from divergent backgrounds and locales. Sponsors have invested more than one million dollars in this bicentennial television series, "Six American Families," six one-hour documentaries to be shown on Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and Westinghouse (Group W) television stations.

The goal of "Six American Families", according to Dr. Everett C. Parker, is to "focus our vision on the future and its hopes — not to forget the past or to obscure its heroes and lessons, but to illustrate through persons living today the moral fortitude that has been America's greatest strength and most precious asset."

Plan now to watch the series, "Six American Families." You'll need to check local listings for the exact schedule. You will watch a blue-collar Polish family in Chicago, a single-parent family in Mill Valley, Calif., a farm family in Iowa, a black New York City policeman and his family; an Albuquerque, New Mexico, family with a handicapped child; and a poor rural family in Dalton, Georgia. At some point in the programs you are likely to find that the series is not only about them but also about us — about persons in our families — about families we know.

Presbyterian Hospital in Adidome, Ghana; this action is at the request of the medical director of the hospital. The Munsons live in Pleasant Hill, TN.

Why People Choose a Church

A survey taken in a suburban area of Houston told the following story as to what motivated people to choose a particular congregation for membership: 20 per cent were influenced by people in the congregation whom they respected. 12 per cent joined because of prior denominational affiliation. 8 per cent liked the

architectural beauty of the building. 3 per cent joined because they liked the person in the pulpit. 18 per cent joined because of the convenience of the location.

BUT 35 PER CENT JOINED BECAUSE THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS INVITED THEM!

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU INVITED SOMEONE TO GO TO CHURCH???

SOME FACTS ABOUT WORLD HUNGER

1. The great plains of North America provide 60 per cent of the total wheat of the world's trade markets.

2. Sixty per cent of the world's 4 billion people are estimated to be malnourished, physically underdeveloped and poorly educated.

3. Twenty per cent of the world's people are believed to be starving at this moment.

4. Two years ago, the people in underdeveloped nations were paying 80 per cent of their incomes for food. The price of food has tripled in the last year.

5. The poorer 2-3rd's of the world's population eats only 1-4th of the world's protein — mostly in cereals.

6. If you choose not to eat a hamburger to conserve some of the U. S. consumption of beef, but do not divert the money you would have spent to world hunger, you have not helped the world hunger crisis.

7. Cutting back on luxuries and diverting the money for world hunger will do as much as not eating beef and other protein products.

8. The people in the U. S. use annually 3 million tons of fertilizer on their lawns, golf courses and cemeteries — enough to produce food to keep several million people alive.

9. For every dollar of fertilizer that Bangladesh cannot buy this year, it will have to spend \$5 to import food next year.

10. Harvard nutritionist Jean Mayer has estimated that the same amount of food that is feeding 210 million Americans could adequately feed 1.5 billion Chinese on an average Chinese diet.

Scott County Tennessee Is No. 1

In December, 1976, Scott County became No. 1 in unemployment in Tennessee. Always in the top five, Scott County, where Robbins and GlenMary UCC Churches are located, now has the highest rate in the state at 16.5%. Hopefully, the opening of a new garment factory and doubling production of a rubber hose plant will reduce that figure in 1977. Meanwhile, the complex problems of unemployment and needs of idle workers are a sad reality to many Scott Countians ... Twenty-two days of school have been missed since Dec. 20 because of the "Big Freeze" ... Christmas Stores, operated by Morgan Scott Project, one in Morgan County and one in Scott, served 325 children in 75 families who were unable to share Christmas gifting ... With 14,000 people in Morgan County and one dentist to serve them, many do without dental care. To meet the demand in 1980, 5.8 dentists are needed in Morgan County.

UCC MINISTER NAMED TO U.N. BY PRES. CARTER

When President Jimmy Carter named his cabinet, he selected a United Church of Christ minister to be the United States Ambassador to the United Nations. The Rev. Andrew J. Young, a graduate of Hartford Theological Seminary, was ordained in Central Church U.C.C. in New Orleans, Louisiana, on February 23, 1955. While at Hartford Seminary, Andy was active in local churches through the Christian Activities Council of the Hartford Congregational Churches. In addition to his ministry in local churches, he was closely related to the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For the past several years he has been serving in the Congress of the United States as a Representative from Georgia. The Rev. Andrew J. Young of the United Church of Christ is now Ambassador Young at the United Nations, as well as a member of First Congregational Church, Atlanta, Ga., and the Georgia-South Carolina

Hodnetts Honored at Tea



Rev. and Mrs. William Hodnett were honored at a farewell tea on February 20, by the Women's Fellowship of Todd and Lanett Churches. The Hodnetts will move to North Carolina, where Bill has accepted a call to be pastor of Seagrove United Church of Christ, beginning March 1, 1977. For the past 10 years, Bill has been pastor of the Todd Church, Shawmut, Alabama.

S. Alabama Area Council Hears Snyder

The Southern Alabama Area Council met in Montgomery, AL., Feb. 5th. Churches from Central Alabama, East Alabama, and South Alabama and N.W. Florida were represented. Dr. Walstein Snyder, executive director of the Elon Home for Children at Elon College, N.C., was featured speaker. Dr. Snyder told of the many needs of the Home and asked that the Area Council organize a group to work directly with the Children's Home.

Reports from comprising Associations told of programs since the last meeting. Plans for the present year and future years were discussed. Outgoing moderator David Chandler conducted the election of new officers: Moderator, James T. McAdams, E. Tallassee Church; Vice Moderator, Ed White, Mt. Olive Church; and Secretary, Katherine Bell, Alexander City, First. High on the priority list is the C.E. Shared Approaches Curriculum, and each church will be invited to meet in clusters in March-April to learn more about it. Summer camping program planning is well on its way. Announcements will come later.

VACATION VENTURES FOR 1977

In the cold month of February, it is hard to think of it being the time for Vacation Church School, but this is the time to start planning. "CREATED FOR LOVE" is the theme for the 1977 Vacation Ventures Series. God in his infinite wisdom created men and women, boys and girls, with the capacity and need to both give and receive love. This theme: CREATED FOR LOVE encourages children, junior highs, and their leaders to explore some of the choices we must make as we both give and receive love.

This year for the Nursery age the material is entitled I CAN CHOOSE consisting of Leader's Guide, Student's Book, and Resource packet; Kindergarten - GOD PLANS FOR FRIENDS; Grades 1-2 - GOD'S CHILDREN NEED FRIENDS; Grades 3-4 - ALL GOD'S CHILDREN BELONG; Grades 5-6 - GOD CALLS US TOGETHER, and Junior High - GOD AND US TOGETHER.

Order an examination kit from Cokesbury Regional Service Center, 201 8th Ave., S., Nashville, TN 37202, Price - \$22.75.

News and Views

MRS. LILLIE SIMS WILLIAMS DIES

A member of Bethany Congregational Church, Thomasville, Ga., for many years, Mrs. Lillie Sims Williams, 86, died Jan. 22. She had lived in Thomasville all of her adult life, actively involved in the church program, especially Women's Missionary Society and Women's Fellowship. Although physically disabled for many years, she maintained ties with Bethany Church until her death.

She was married for 71 years to Richard Williams, retired postman, who survives and lives with their daughter, Mrs. Mildred Newton, retired teacher from Thomasville City Schools.

THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP, St. John's Church, Cullman, AL., cleaned up the Church yard on a recent Sunday (twenty bags of trash!) and then enjoyed a long hike in Hurricane Park in 30 degree weather!

JOYCE RHODES, wife of John Rhodes, pastor of Phenix City, First, recently underwent surgery for the sixth time for an ankle injury of April 1975. Joyce fell on the steps of the parsonage while they were living in North Carolina. It is the hope that this osteotomy of the lateral malleolus will make the ankle good as new. However, it will not be known until nine or ten months from now when she is up and using it.

The Southeast News

Second-Class Postage Paid at
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

Published monthly October and
November; February to July, inclusive;
bi-monthly August-September and
December-January, by and for
the churches of the

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

The United Church of Christ
2676 Clairmont Rd., Atlanta, Ga. 30359
Telephone (404) 633-5655

Subscription Rate — \$1.00 Per Year

Printed by The Roanoke Leader
Roanoke, Alabama

Vol. 27 March 1977 No. 2

POSTMASTER: Send Form 3579 to
P.O. Box 29833, Atlanta, Ga. 30359

THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Many religious organizations have gone on record in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. Within the context of their diverse beliefs all affirm that the dignity of personhood has been bestowed equally on all individuals, both female and male, by our Creator.

The Tenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirmed its own support of ERA and urged all "local churches, Conferences, and Associations of those states which have yet to vote favorably on the Amendment to actively work for ratification"

WHAT DOES ERA SAY?

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after date of ratification.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

*In Nebraska, a wife pays inheritance tax on a jointly owned farm if her husband dies; however, if the wife dies first, her husband pays no tax...

*In Utah, a husband can sue for the death of his child in an auto accident but a wife cannot...

*In Louisiana, a husband has control over all family property and can sell it without consulting his wife...

*In 1973, median salary for women full-time professional and technical workers was \$9,093; for full-time professional and technical men workers, \$14,306...

*Median weekly earnings year-round for full-time women workers in 1973 were 57% that of working men, and one-half of all working women heads of households are the only employed family member...

ERA WILL —

Provide the framework for a review and revision of state and federal laws which now discriminate on the basis of sex.

Prohibit different legal treatment based solely on sex.

Extend benefits to the other sex that are now limited by laws to one sex only. Increase the dignity and worth of homemaker's contribution in matters of law such as inheritance rights, child support, and social security.

Birmingham First Honors Blind

Angola Guild of First Congregational Church in Birmingham sponsored the Annual Christmas Party for blind people. Each year, just before the date of the party, it seems there is no way to secure sufficient gifts for every man, woman and child who will attend. Volunteers need to bake turkeys and make dressing and gravy, as well as bake the cakes. Someone must get the bread, vegetables, beverages and turkeys for the dinner.

How can there be enough gifts for everyone, when some bring four or five members of their family with them? This year, it seemed particularly hopeless because so many stores said they were limiting their donations to a few certain organizations. It was proposed that we just cancel the Party for the Blind this year.

But the date arrived, the guests gathered, the food was delicious. **AND THE GIFTS!** It seemed nothing less than a miracle that there were so many. Members had solicited their friends and called other members of the church. There was a last minute flurry of wrapping items that had been given without wrapping. Members sorted packages into separate boxes for men, women, girls, and boys, ready to be given out as guests came in and registered.

Rain may have kept some people away, but over 100 guests were served Christmas dinner. Many expressed their appreciation as they left. Then, there were tables to be cleared and the kitchen to be cleaned up. Another Party for the Blind was over.

—Louise Galt, Member

Lent to Easter

March 4 - World Day of Prayer
March 20 - One Great Hour of Sharing
April 3 - Palm Sunday
April 7 - Maundy Thursday
April 8 - Good Friday
April 10 - Easter

Use Lectionary, 3 Scripture Readings, for each Sunday as found in the Desk Calendar and Plan Book, 1976-77, which all pastors should have. These can be basis for sermons, as well as study and reflection by the congregation.

Begin Budget Preparation for 1978, phase 3, of the Christian Enlistment process. Review filmstrip on mission of the church, "Let's Celebrate the Church."

Consider "Vacation Ventures" for your Vacation Bible School.

Minister and Christian Education leaders attend Curriculum Workshops in area.